

Short History of James (Jens) Christian Bolander and Anna Patrina Marie Jensen

Prepared for the Bolander Reunion 27 June 1981 by Ila W. Bolander with the help of Beatrice Scobie, Deola Betts, and Leo Bolander

James (Jens) Christian Bolander was born the 8th of May 1858 at Aasted, Hjorring, Denmark to his parents, Sven Gustaf Bolander and Anna Katrina Anderson.

On Oct 3, 1879, he married Anna Patrina Marie Jensen at Lendum, Hjorring, Denmark.

They were the proud parents of 12 children, 6 boys and 6 girls, namely:

1. James Christian Julius (Chris)
2. Anna Christine Marie
3. Anne Tomine Karoline (Minnie)
4. Josephine Katrine (Josie)
5. Andrew Christian
6. John Wego Carl
7. James Emanuel George
8. Hyrum Peter Otilius (Hy)
9. Cora Matilda
10. Henry Christopher (Hen)
11. Anna Magdalene
12. Sadie

The first 3 children were born in Lendum, Hjorring, Denmark. The next 5 children were born in Aalborg, Aalborg, Denmark. Andrew was born in Aasted, Hjorring, Denmark. Cora Matilda was born in Mount Carmel, Kane, Utah. Henry Christopher was born in Redmond, Sevier, Utah. Anna Magdalene was born in Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah. Sadie was born in Sandy, SL, Utah.

A grand daughter of James Christian Bolander, Beatrice Scobie relates that Grandpa Bolander was a dearly beloved and respected man. His children loved and honored him. Every female grand child was a little "Toots." His grand children loved and adored him. He loved his grand children and seemed to always have one or two on his knee. He was a tease and liked to tickle. Sometimes he would sing lullabies to some of his grand children.

Grandpa had a good tenor voice, and enjoyed singing with the player piano. His favorite song was "The Holy City." Beatrice and grandpa sang together many times.

He wrote and published 3 songs: "Sing To Me Sweetheart," "Kiss Me Goodnight," and "Springtime."

He served a mission to Denmark and Norge in 1912-1914.

It was in 1889 that Grandpa immigrated to Zion. With him he brought 5 of his children, Christine, Minnie, Josie, Andrew, and John. Because Grandma was expecting a baby at that time, she did not come with Grandpa. Their eldest son, James Christian (Chris) stayed with her, as did George. After Hy was born, those four other members of their family came to America the following spring.

At one time in Shelley, Idaho Grandpa owned and operated a shoe shop. He was a diligent worker and took pride in his work. He was always friendly, kind, and jovial with his family, friends, and all. He was always particular about his personal neatness and cleanliness, and always looked well groomed.

Beatrice stated that she never remembers hearing Grandpa use bad language, not even when he hit his thumb with the hammer. Beatrice used to spend a lot of time in his shoe shop. She used to tidy up for him by putting all the different little nails in their right places.

In the early days, he had an active interest in a lead and silver mine called "The Meta Mine" in Idaho. A lot of hard labor was the result.

Grandpa adored his dear little wife, our grand mother. It seemed that they never were called anything but "Ma" and "Pa" by one another, as did all their children.

While living in California, he owned a donut machine, the non-greasy ones. He also made ceramics.

When he returned to Idaho after an illness in California, he stayed at his daughter Minnie's home. Beatrice remembers him shuffling through the house, and that he would walk miles a day to regain his strength.

Grandpa had an old Royal typewriter, which he taught himself to use.

He read a great deal. The scriptures were dear to him.

Beatrice remembers at one time Grandpa counseling her to drink 8 glasses of water a day for good health.

He adored family reunions—the more family about him, the happier he was.

Our little Grandmother, Anna Patrina Marie, was born 19 Feb 1855, in Hormested, Hjørring, Denmark, to Jens Christian Christensen and Juliane Christenson.

As Beatrice was only 12 when her dear little grandmother returned to her heavenly home, she remembers some things about her. What she remembers most about her was her kindness and her smile. She always wore her hair, which was sparse, in a little knot on top of her head. She always wore a clean long front waist apron. She would walk over to her daughter's house, Minnie, and enjoy a cup of Mormon tea together. The Grandchildren loved her.

Grandma was like a nurse and a mid-wife, for she was always there when grand babies came. She also went to other families and helped out. She was in great demand in times of new babies and other sickness.

Beatrice remembers that she thought she was really tall when she reached to Grandma's height. Grandma was less than 5' tall. Grandpa was taller and had a stocky build.

Grandma loved flowers and spent time taking care of them.

Grandma's house was always clean and neat.

Beatrice remembers eating a bowl of bread and milk at her house, and added that it was the best bread and milk she ever tasted.

Deola Bolander Betts tells us when Grandpa was a lad he was known as "Strong Jens." Also that he went to night school and took art classes when he was past 80 years old. Some of the artwork he did was in colored chalk.

Further, Deola mentions that Grandpa was a popular partner at dances; even in his last years—no slow poke. He liked to whirl and twirl.

Grandpa's grandson, Leo Bolander remembers that Grandpa used to make fudge candy, which he sold from house to house. Also that he made house numbers and nameplates from metal and glass with gold letters and numbers. These he also sold.

Leo remembers too that Grandpa used to drink clabber milk; also that he used to cook whole wheat and eat it for a breakfast cereal.

Leo's children used to call him "Little Grandpa."

Grandma died 22 Mar 1919 in Shelley, Idaho. Grandpa died 19 Mar 1942 in Burbank, LA, California. Both are buried in the Shelley Cemetery in Idaho.

To this fine couple we are indebted for our rich heritage, and grateful that they embraced the gospel that we might also enjoy the privilege and blessing of being members of the Lord's true church.